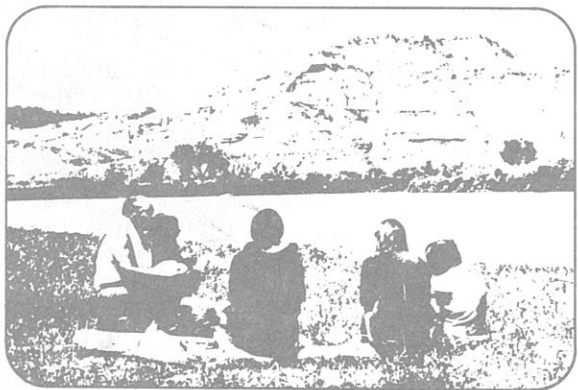


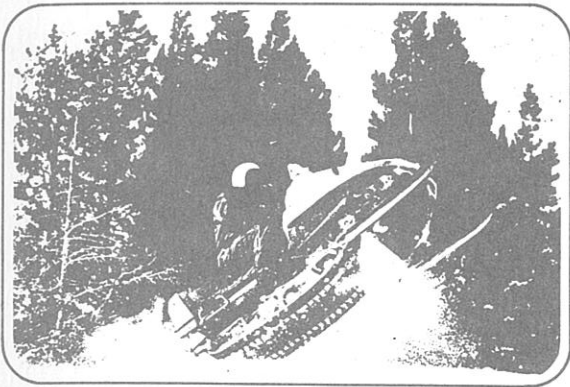
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DESIGN FOR TOMORROW 1977-1990

Montana Department of Fish and Game

Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation



A large amount of recreation in Montana does not take place at designated recreation areas. Rather, Montanans like to wander about their magnificent countryside enjoying the vistas, observing wildlife, studying the environment and just entertaining themselves. This wandering about is generally called "dispersed use" recreation.

About two-thirds of Montanans' dispersed use recreation involves some form of a recreational vehicle—most commonly a four-wheel drive, motorbike or a snowmobile.

The recreational vehicle has vastly expanded the recreational horizon for Montanans—it provides easy access to new country and, to many recreationists, the vehicle is itself a source of entertainment and excitement.

But use of recreational vehicles is not without adverse impacts. When misused, some recreation vehicles can tear the countryside to pieces or irritate recreationists seeking quiet and solitude.

This latter point is particularly important because, while use of recreational vehicles appears to be leveling off, there has been a vast increase in the number of recreationists—backpackers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers—who place a premium on quiet and solitude.

This conflict between recreationists has imbued the management of vehicle-oriented recreation with an unnecessary aura of suspicion and emotionalism.

This need not be. Recent experiences with

snowmobile management have shown that mutual respect and serious effort on real problems can reduce and, in many cases, eliminate conflicts. The following are necessary:

- (1) training in safety, etiquette and behavior for all Montana recreationists,
- (2) law enforcement and
- (3) provision of minimal support facilities.

We are addressing snowmobilers' needs, but snowmobile use accounts for only about 14% of the recreational dispersed use of motorized vehicles. Fully 85% of the dispersed use of recreational vehicles is subject to no responsible management program.

WHAT IS NEEDED:

Establishment of a sound, reasonable off-highway management program is vitally necessary to the future of quality recreation in Montana.

If this is not done, we can expect increasing conflict, unnecessary damage to our natural resources and the imposition of unnecessary and unrealistic regulations at the federal level.

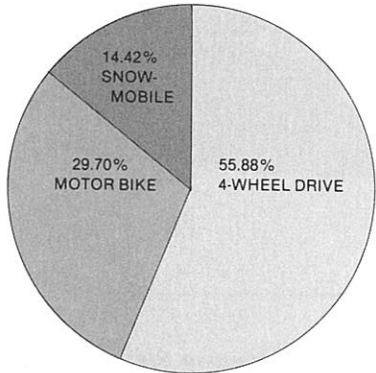
WHAT IS BEING DONE:

Implementation of a state snowmobile management program in cooperation with snowmobile clubs, local governments and federal agencies to provide facilities, law enforcement and training.

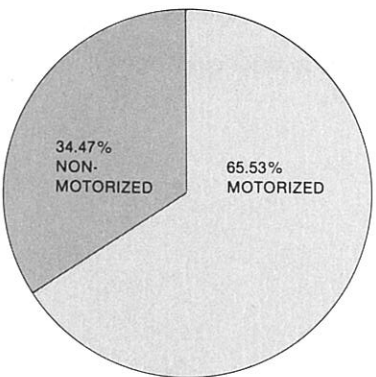
WHAT MUST BE DONE:

Empowering and funding programs similar to the snowmobile management program for all forms of off-highway vehicle recreation.

USE OF VEHICLE TYPES IN DISPERSED RECREATION



MOTORIZED, NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE IN DISPERSED RECREATION



WHAT MUST BE DONE:

When the existing program to include more and systematic river basin planning and and ve cooperation and coordination between and local agencies and the private sector in and implementation of river basin plans.

WHAT IS BEING DONE:

will become increasingly difficult to obtain, quality and quantity may deteriorate so our lakes are useless recreational resources and ts between recreationists and landowners

LAND CONTROL AND ITS EFFECT ON FISHERIES

